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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 11893 241255Z

62
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FBO-02 A-01 OC-05 CCO-00 /024 W
---------- 098779
R 241204Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6348

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FOR DIKEOS FROM GARRETT

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: RSS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 218852

LOOK FORWARD TO CONFERENCE WHICH SHOULDPROVE USEFUL, PRODUCTIVE AND TIMELY.

RE KUALA LUMPUR AND OTHER RECENT TERRORIST INCIDENTS. BELIEVE EMPHASIS THIS AREA MUST BE THE ESTABLISHING OF POLICY AT DEPARTMENT LEVEL. IF POLICY IS THAT USG WILL NOT NEGOTIATE WITH TERRORIST THEN WE MUST, TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE, DENY TERRORIST THAT OPPORTUNITY FOR TESTING. THE CONCEPTS THEN OF PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS MUST UNDERGO RADICAL CHANGE. RSO'S HAVE CONSISTENTLY BEEN REMINDED OF THE "ANTI-FORTRESS AND IMAGE" SYNDROME. WITH IMAGINATION AND IMPLICATION, SUBTLE BUT "REAL" AND PERHAPS STANDARD CONTROL SYSTEMS CAN BE PROGRAMMED. IN THIS CONNECTION, SUGGEST FBO HOLDS PART OF THE KEYS TO THIS PROBLEM. KUALA LUMPUR ALSO DEMONSTRATED THAT HIGH RISK OR LIKELY AREAS CANNOT BE DEFINED. CURRENTLY WE ARE RESPONDING WITH CRASH PROGRAMS, OB-VIOUSLY TASKING THE ABILITY TO DETERMINE PRIORITIES.

AT BEST THIS LEAVES MUCH TO BE DESIRED.

ALONG THESE SAME LINES, BACKED UP BY POLICY, IS NEED
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 11893 241255Z

TO "EDUCATE" THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN TERMS OF ATTITUDES,

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HABITS AND INTERESTS.

RE SY OFFICER STAFFING, PROPERLY SUPPORTED, PRESENCE OF AN RSO SHOULD GO A LONG WAY IN DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING AWARENESS IN FIELD OF PUBLIC SECURITY. THE OLD CLICHE THAT "SECURITY IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS" HAS MORE MEANING THAN EVER, BUT SOMEONE HAS TO BE IN CHARGE OF THAT PROGRAM. WHEN RSO'S ARE NOT PRESENT, THE SYSTEM HAS NOT AS YET BEEN ABLE TO PLACE SUFFICIENT EMPHASIS AND IMPORTANCE ON THOSE ASSIGNED THESE "EXTRA" DUTIES, BUT RATHER IS ONE, AMONG A GENERAL ASSORTMENT OF FUNCTIONS USUALLY PERFORMED BY A PSO. IN TERMS OF WORK REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION REPORTS, THIS ADDITIONAL DUTY SHOULD HAVE DUE RECOGNITION.

THE BASIC PROBLEM IN INSTALLATION AND USE OF TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT IS TWO-FOLD; DOES IT ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING AND DOES IT APPROACH MAINTENANCE-FREE OPERATION. TENDENCY HAS BEEN TO "GO ALONG" WITH THE RSO WHEN PERHAPS WE CREATE MORE PROBLEMS THAN WE SOLVE.

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING FOR THE MASSES PROVIDES SOME AWARENESS AND SATISFACTION, BUT ON LONG-RANGE BASIS, DAILY ATTENTION WILL BE DIFFICULT TO ACCOMPLISH.

FINALLY, VOICE RADIO OPERATIONS, THE MOST VITAL AND IMPORTANT LINK IN DEALING WITH EMERGENCIES MAY NOT NOW BE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED. AT SOME POSTS, RSO'S HAVE SOME CONTROL OVER SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT. THEY ALSO ATTEMPT TO EVALUATE AND PROGRAM ITS EFFECTIVE USE AT OTHER POSTS THIS IS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICY, A RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RCO. WHILE THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS, FEASIBILITY, SERVICING, INSTALLING AND MAINTAINING EMERGENCY VOICE RADIO SYSTEMS IS CERTAINLY A FUNCTION OF O/C, I DO BELIEVE A SECOND LOOK SHOULD BE TAKEN AS TO "CONTROL", DISTRIBUTION, AND OPERATION OF SUCH EQUIPMENT.

WILL CABLE RESERVATION REQUEST LATER.
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